

Opening Remarks
Dr. Sean Kirkpatrick, Director, AARO
NASA Public Meeting on UAP
May 31, 2023

Good morning. I want to start by thanking NASA for convening today's UAP Independent Study Public Meeting and for inviting me to participate. NASA has been an invaluable partner to our team at AARO as we work to better understand and respond to unidentified anomalous phenomena. We applaud NASA for commissioning its Independent Study Team and for exploring what data and tools could be leveraged to shed greater light on UAP.

Though NASA and AARO are taking on different aspects of the UAP problem set, our efforts are very much complementary. We are both committed to the scientific method, to a data-driven approach, and to the highest standards of scientific research integrity. While NASA is evaluating unclassified data sources for its study, AARO's data set includes classified material with a focus on national security areas. However, *all of this data* is critical to understanding the nature and origin of UAP. NASA brings unique capabilities, world-class scientists, and a wealth of academic and research linkages. NASA also has access to earth sensing satellites, radiological sensors, tools for gravitational wave and geomagnetic detection and means of analyzing crowd-sourced data that may assist AARO and NASA in their UAP efforts. We are grateful for the partnership and welcome the opportunity to join with NASA to share our collective findings with the public as the U.S. Government moves towards greater transparency on this issue.

Last month, I testified before members of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities and shared some of the progress made since AARO's establishment in July 2022. I discussed AARO's scientific and analytic approaches, its efforts to improve UAP data collection, standardize reporting processes, leverage partnerships, and meticulously review the U.S. Government's UAP-related historical records.

As I told the subcommittee then, the resolution of all UAP cases cannot be accomplished by DoD and the Intelligence Community alone. AARO's ultimate success will require partnerships with the interagency, industry, academia, the scientific community, and the public, which all bring their own resources, ideas, and expertise to the UAP challenge. We believe robust collaboration and peer-

review across a broad range of partners will promote greater objectivity and transparency in the study of UAP. Of course, NASA's UAP Independent Study Team was convened very much in that spirit.

I also emphasized to Congress that only a very small percentage of UAP reports display signatures that could reasonably be described as 'anomalous.' The majority of unidentified objects reported to AARO demonstrate mundane characteristics of readily explainable sources. While a large number of cases in AARO's holdings remain technically unresolved, this is primarily due to a lack of data associated with these cases. Without sufficient data, we are unable to reach defensible conclusions that meet the high scientific standards we set for resolution.

Meanwhile, for the few objects that do demonstrate potentially anomalous characteristics, AARO is approaching these cases with the highest level of objectivity and analytic rigor. This includes physical testing and employing modeling and simulation to validate our analyses and underlying theories, then peer reviewing the results before reaching any conclusions. AARO has shared these cases with the appropriately cleared NASA team in order to discuss and help recommend potential scientific areas of study that NASA may want to take on.

I'll underscore here, as I did before Congress, that AARO's work will take time if we are committed to doing it right. AARO is committed to the highest standards of scientific research integrity; we know our partners at NASA are too.

Thanks again to NASA for hosting this public forum for UAP discussion and information exchange. I'd like to turn to a brief presentation that includes recently declassified footage and updated UAP analytic trends.